

***R E M A R K S***

Entry of the preceding amendments and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of such amendments and the following comments. By this Amendment claims 1, 8, 11 and 12 have been canceled and claims 2, 5 and 17 to 20 have been amended. Claims 2 to 7, 9, 10 and 13 to 20 remain in the application.

The amendment to the specification is entirely editorial in nature.

Applicants submit that the finality of Paper No. 6 is premature since at least one new issue is raised in connection with the limitation of the joining members of, e.g., claim 3 insofar as they form a unitary product of "two-color or multicolor injection molding." This is a new issue that is not predicated upon any amendment made to Applicants' claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of Paper No. 6 is thus in order and is respectfully solicited.

The rejection of claims 1 to 20 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muto et al." is respectfully traversed. Applicants note that the application for this reference was filed on April 5, 2001, whereas Applicants' claimed priority date is February 20, 2001, thus overcoming Muto as available prior art.

According to Muto a fuel cut valve 32, as a tank joint part, is formed of a resin which corresponds to a resinous material of low fuel permeability. However, a main member and a joining member, constituting a tank joint part in the present invention, are made of an alloy of such resin and a polyolefin elastomer, which clearly differs from Mutos' resin. The volume swelling and the bonding strength of the respective materials are thus different from each other. The alloys used by Applicants are neither disclosed nor suggested by Muto.

Applicants' main and joining members are complementarily engaged with each other in cross section so as to increase the bonding strength therebetween, as shown in FIG. 1, whereas, Mutos' polyethylene layer 33 in the form of a ring is merely fit on a fuel cut valve 32 as a pipe. Such structure, as in Muto, is not intended to increase bonding strength.

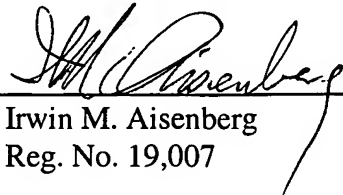
"Two-color injection molding" in the present invention is clearly defined in the specification by text on page 6, line 24, to page 7, line 2, wherein two kinds of molten resins are injected for molding (not two different colors). This two-color injection molding is a conventional method for simultaneous injection molding of two different kinds of resins with high bonding strength.

In the final paragraph on page 2 of Paper No. 6 an analysis is presented for concluding that Mutos' material is the same as Applicants' thus inherently having the same properties. As this presumption is incorrect, as instantly explained and clearly set forth in the specification, the conclusion set forth is thus unjustified and unsupportable. The misconception is not a valid basis for precluding patentability of Applicants' claims.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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